

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Carbon Footprint Re-baselining Including Scope 3 Emissions1. Purpose of Report

To update Members on the recently completed Scope 3 emissions analysis and to re-baseline the Council's carbon footprint. The re-baselining will be established on combined Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions for 2022/23.

2. Recommendation**Cabinet is asked to:**

- 1. NOTE the report and RESOLVE that the new carbon reporting baseline, including scope 3 emissions for 2022/23 be approved.**
- 2. RESOLVE that a consultant be engaged to establish a carbon road map to net zero including cost projections within existing revenue budget be approved.**

3. Detail

In July 2019, the Council declared a 'Climate Change Emergency' and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2027. There are **1,214** days remaining (as from 3 September 2024) for the Council to achieve this target.

The commitment is based on a baseline for the Council's own operations that include Carbon Scopes 1 and 2, plus business travel and transmission and distribution emissions (Scope 3).

In 2009, the Council worked with the Carbon Trust to create a Carbon Management Plan and establish the Council's baseline carbon footprint which was calculated at **4,242 tCO₂e** for 2009/10.

A re-baselining exercise was completed during 2021, following a recommendation from the Carbon Trust's 2020 report. This was to include emission data from buildings previously omitted from reporting. The new baseline was established at **3,730 tCO₂e** for 2018/19.

In 2023/24 the Council's carbon footprint has been calculated at **2,343tCO₂e**, a **37%** reduction since the 2018/19 re-baseline.

Within the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-2027 and its supporting Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP), the Council has committed to establish a net zero target. To facilitate this, all Scope 3 emissions from the Council's operations need to be calculated and included in reporting.

Scope 3 (indirect) emissions are complex and difficult to calculate and have therefore have not been included in previous emission calculations.

Indirect emissions are typically the largest source of emissions for many organisations (commonly between 60-90%). Further information and carbon scope definitions are provided in **Appendix 1**.

In March 2024, the Carbon Trust were appointed to complete a Scope 3 baseline for the Council. The report was finalised in August and key findings include the following:

- Scope 3 emissions account for **90%** of the Council's overall own operation carbon footprint (20,672 tCO_{2e}). Scope 1 emissions account for 8% and scope 2 account for 2%.
- The Housing and Commercial stock make up **75%** of the Council's scope 3 emissions (15,415 tCO_{2e}).
- Purchased Goods and Services make up **13%** (2,695 tCO_{2e}).
- Investments make up **8%** (1,698 tCO_{2e}).
- The remaining **4%** is made up from a variety of other activities including waste, water, commuting and business travel.

Full analysis of the Scope 3 report and next steps are provided in **Appendix 1**.

The Carbon Trust report is provided in **Appendix 2**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and is a decision made or to be made in connection with the discharge of an Executive function which is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

There are no updates from scrutiny.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider with current activity being contained within existing capital and revenue budgets. The cost of the commitment within the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-2027 to achieve the establish a net zero target will be incorporated into the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

The comments from the Union were as follows:

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.